Mass Transit Company (UMTC) which has been set up to implement the project. Government of India has been released Rs. 7 crores towards equity of UMTC.

No proposal seeking external grant has yet been received from Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Tax-Free Bonds for Mobilising Resources

912. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that this Ministry is seeking higher allocations of tax-free bonds for mobilising resources to meet the target of constructing two million houses annually;

(b) if so, who would be beneficiaries of these two million houses and has any time frame been drawn for the purpose; and

(c) whether his Ministry is also keeping any reservation for these houses for the economically weaker sections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The National Agenda of Governance envisages a target of two million houses per year. Out of which, 7 lakh houses are to be constructed in urban areas. An action plan and State-wise breakup of the target have been prepared. Necessary action is being taken by HUDCO and other financial institutions to provide finance to achieve the target. Special care will be taken for the EWS and LIG sections of the population, who will be amongst the main beneficiaries.

Introduction of Innovative Construction Material

913. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that HUDCO has introduced housing materials which are eco-friendly, energy efficient and cost-effective; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps Government propose to popularise the use of these innovative construction materials on a Large scale?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of the cost effective technologies/building material are enclosed as statement. In Order to popularise cost effective technologies/ building materials, HUDCO under this Ministry, finances and supports building material industries, particularly those using industrial and agricultural wastes.

Government is promoting cost-effective technologies by establishing building centres through HUDCO. HUDCO provides 0.25% reduction in interest rates for using the cost-effective technologies and is also providing technical assistance in terms of grant to the agencies to construct schools, public buildings etc. for demonstrating these technologies. Financial support for setting up of building material industries by way of term loans and equity contribution is also provided.

Statement

Details of Cost-effective Technologies/ Building Materials Promoted/Popularised by HUDCO

1. Clay Fly Ash Bricks
2. Stabilised Mud Fly Ash Bricks
3. Calcium Silicate Bricks
4. Autoclaved Aerated Concrete

5. Cellular Light Weight Concrete
6. Sintered Light Weight Aggregate
7. Flyash-Lime-Gypsum Product named Fal-G
8. Flyash Stone Powder Cement Bricks
9. Flyash can also be used in the manufacture of mosaic tiles, plain tiles, prestressed roofing slabs/ beams, ferrocement products, thermal insulation bricks and road subgrades.
10. Bamboo/timber mat based walls (Ekra Walling)
11. Coconut fibre and wooden chips roofing sheets
12. Corrugated bamboo roofing sheets
13. Guna Tile Roof
14. Pyramidal Brick Roof
15. Cement Bonded Fibre Rofing Sheets
16. Micro Concrete Roofing Tiles
17. Funicular Shells Over Edge Beams
18. Cement Rounded Composite Panelling/Partitioning, Cladding False Ceiling Boards or Panels.
19. Gypsum Based Ceiling Tiles, Door and Window Shutters
20. Bomboo panels
21. Jute-Stalk Boards
22. Medium density fibre board, doors and windows, panels
23. Partical Boards
24. Rice Husk Boards
25. PVC Doors, Window Frames
26. Precast RCC Doors and Window Frames
27. Resin or Oxicloride cement bonded saw dust based door and window frames.
28. Natural Fibre reinforced polymer composite door panels
29. Ferrocement shutters
30. Fibre glass reinforced plastic (FRP) doors and windows.

Policy for FDI in Housing Sector

914. SHRI SATISH CHANDRA SITRARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalized a new package to kick start construction of housing sector including finalizing policy for FDI in housing sector;

(b) if so, the details of major policy decisions taken recently and proposals under consideration;

(c) the details of action plan finalized for the current year and Ninth Plan period; and

(d) the details regarding extent of housing shortage in urban areas and metropolis, State-wise and time-bound plan to meet the same with physical and financial targets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): (a) to (c) The National Housing & Habitat Policy since approved by the Government and laid on the Table of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 29th July, 1998, envisages Government's role as enabler rather than builder.

Government would create an enabling environment by removing legal, regulatory and financial constraints facing the Housing Sector. This would help all sections of the Society to gain access to land, finance and technology to obtain shelter for themselves. Government will however, continue to intervene directly for the benefit of the poor and vulnerable sections of Society. The long term goal of this policy is to create surplus in housing stock either on ownership or rental basis. The State Governments are required to draw up their own action plans to address the housing problems in their States.

Apart from National Housing & Habitat Policy, the other steps taken/ proposed to be taken inculde:

1. Repeal of Urban Land (Ceilling & Regulation) Act.
2. Foreign Direct Investment in Housing and Construction Sector.
3. Increased support to HUDCO to enable it to play a more meaningful role.